



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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October 31, 1997

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Lynn Kunzler, Senior Reclamation Specialist *LK*

RE: Site Inspection & Vegetation Survey, Utah Building Stone, Grouse Creek Operations,
M/003/031, Box Elder County, Utah

Date of Inspection: October 15, 1997
Time of Inspection: 8:00 a.m.
Conditions: Clear, cool
Participants: Lynn Kunzler, DOGM

Purpose of Inspection: Document site conditions and conduct vegetation survey.

This inspection and vegetation survey was completed to document the status of reclamation completed since my last inspection, pursuant to the Board Order for reclamation to be completed or an interim reclamation surety be posted by October 15, 1997. At the time of this inspection, the Division and Board was in the process of extending the deadline to meet the conditions of the Board Order (Bill Bown had notified the Division that he was in the process of obtaining a reclamation surety and that the bonding company would need additional time to process the requested surety). A vegetation survey was also conducted, realizing the data would be needed for completing a LMO before next the field season.

SITE INSPECTION:

Additional reclamation activities since my October 2, 1997 inspection were not apparent. The cat that was being used to rip the road sections and construct barricades was still by the access to the south slide area, where it had broken down on October 2nd. Discussing the site with Preston Bown later in the day, he indicated that he would be attempting to get the cat off the hill within the next couple days.

VEGETATION SURVEY:

Vegetation sampling was conducted using randomly located transects (at least one transect was located in the general area of each quarry area) with vegetation being recorded at regular intervals along each of ten transects. Percent ground cover was calculated by averaging all transects.

The vegetation of the area is dominated by low sagebrush with scattered patches of snowberry, buckbrush and aspen. Species noted during the survey included: low sagebrush, mountain big sagebrush, bitterbrush, chokecherry, broom snakeweed, oregon grape, bud sage, phlox, snowberry, pinyon pine, utah juniper, aspen, service berry, basin wildrye, bluegrass, western wheatgrass, bluebunch wheatgrass, sheep fescue, wild buckwheat, mountain lupine, and yarrow (It is likely other forb species exist on site and would have been observed earlier in the year). Ground cover was estimated at 64%, with the range being from 50% to 70% cover. Rock constituted nearly 25% of the total ground cover and litter and bare ground making up only 11%. Based on this survey, the reclamation standard for revegetation success would be 70% of the 64% vegetation ground cover, or 44.8%.

cc: Bill Bown, Utah Building Stone
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